

Message Text

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64/15

ACTION EA-10

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USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-04 DRC-01 SAM-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 /066 W

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R 160510Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2552

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11336

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 11336 VICE 1336)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH VS VN

SUBJ: PRC COMMENT ON VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS

SUMMARY: NCNA HAS CARRIED TEXTS OF THE OCTOBER 8 AND 11 PRG
AND DRVN STATEMENTS ON THE SOUTH VIETNAM SITUATION ALONG WITH
EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM THE PEOPLE'S DAILY. IN CONTRAST TO THE

VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS, THE CHINESE EDITORIAL IS MUCH Milder IN
ITS TREATMENT OF US INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND STRESSES
INSTEAD THE NECESSITY FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE THIEU GOVERN-
MENT. THE EDITORIAL ALSO PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE
PEOPLE BUT INDICATES THAT THE VIETNAMESE WILL WIN FURTHER
VICTORIES ON THEIR OWN. THE PRC EDITORIAL IS PROBABLY THE
MINIMUM FORMAL REACTION WHICH THE CHINESE COULD HAVE GIVEN
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THESE TWO STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. NCNA CARRIED THE FULL TEXTS OF BOTH THE OCTOBER 8 PRG AND THE OCTOBER 11 DRVN STATEMENTS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. NCNA ALSO CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM THE PRG AMBASSADOR TO PEKING'S OCTOBER 10 PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF THE PRG STATEMENT. ADDITIONALLY, A PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL ON OCTOBER 15 PROVIDES AUTHORITATIVE, IF SOMEWHAT QUALIFIED, SUPPORT FOR THE STATEMENTS. AS USUAL, THE EDITORIAL IS CONSIDERABLY Milder IN ITS TREATMENT OF THE USG THAN IS EITHER OF THE VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS, AND FOCUSES ITS ATTACK ON THE THIEU GOVERNMENT.

2. BOTH VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS AND IN IDENTICAL DEMANDS: FIRST, THE "DEFINITIVE AND COMPLETE TERMINATION" OF US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS AND, SECONDLY, THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND "HIS GANG". IN CONTRAST, THE CHINESE EDITORIAL, WHILE INDICATING A "TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED" CONTINUED US INVOLVEMENT, STRESSES PRIMARILY THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT THIEU. THE EDITORIAL STATES ONLY THAT THE USG SHOULD "SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENT EVERY PROVISION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT". THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE "CHINESE PEOPLE FIRMLY SUPPORT" THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BUT CLEARLY CONTINUES THE STANDARD PRC LINE ON THE NEED FOR SELF-RELIANCE BY INDICATING THAT "WE ARE FIRMLY CONVINCED" THAT THE VIETNAMESE WILL "WIN FRESH VICTORIES IN THE STRUGGLE".

3. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, NCNA HAS BEEN CARRYING NUMEROUS ITEMS ON POLITICAL DISSATISFACTION WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM IN WHICH IT HAS EMPHASIZED THIEU'S LACK OF POPULARITY, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND "LAND-GRABBING" AND OTHER ALLEGED CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES. IN MANY OF THESE ARTICLES, THE US WAS REPROVED FOR ITS CONTINUED ROLE IN VIETNAM BUT THE PRIMARY CONDEMNATION WAS CONSISTENTLY RESERVED FOR THE THIEU GOVERNMENT. THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES THIS PATTERN AND DEVOTES ONLY NINE LINES STRICTLY TO THE US. THE THIEU GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRAST, IS CASTIGATED FOR ITS REFUSAL TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, PURSUIT OF THE PACIFICATION POLICY, LAND-GRABBING, TRAMPLING ON THE

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PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM, AND PERSECUTION AND SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

4. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE PRG AND DRVN UNDOUBTEDLY PLACE ON THEIR STATEMENTS, THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL IS PROBABLY THE MINIMUM FORMAL REACTION WHICH THE PRC COULD PROVIDE. ITS RATHER MODERATE TONES IN ATTACKING THE US, WHICH SEEM ALMOST DOCILE COMPARED TO THE MORE BELLICOSE LANGUAGE

EMPLOYED BY THE VIETNAMESE , INDICATE A CONTINUATION OF THE
PRC'S CAUTIOUS AND RESTRAINED TREATMENT OF THE US ROLE IN
INDOCHINA.
CROSS

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